SELECTIONS

TROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

Received up to 4th January, 1876

POLITICAL.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 30th December says that the present crisis has elicited such sympathy and loyalty from the people towards the wounded in the war.

ed before. The Kabul war is a very small affair compared to the enormous resources at the disposal of the English Government, and the campaign is progressing very satisfactorily. The Government has not asked for aid from the feudary chiefs, nor does it stand in need of it. In spite of this, the native chiefs have offered the services of their troops, and have already begun to despatch their contingents for enployment on the frontier. The Government is very carefully watching the conduct of the natives on the present occasion. We hope that no class of the community will fail to give a proof of their loyalty, and that the whole native population will pass the ordeal unscathed. Only the chiefs and princes can assist the Government with troops. But we can also suggest an easy and simple way in which all classes of the community can

Circulation, 820 copies. should contribute subscriptions for the relief of the soldiers. At the time of the late Russo-Turkish war, the English people contributed lakhs of rupees for the relief of the Turks, and even Her Majesty prepared a number of bandages with her own hands for the wounded. It is the paramount duty of our countrymen to exhibit their sympathy with the British and native seldiers in the present war. Even the English ladies and native women of Simla can teach them a good lesson in this matter. They have jointly established a factory at Simla, for preparing different kinds of articles, which may be of use to the soldiers on the frontier.

Circulation, 820 copies. The Oudh Akhbár of the 31st December states that the Lucknow Reform Club, thinking it neclub and the Kabul war.

Club and the Kabul war.

causes which have led to the Kabul war,

Lucknow on the 28th December. About 400 gentlemen were present on the occasion, and Nawab Mumtaz-ud-daula was in the chair. A long address, which had been prepared by the Reform Club for the occasion, was read at the meeting. The address was intended as a kind of commentary on the Vice-roy's war proclamation, explained the objects and reasons of the present war, and suggested the expedience of collecting subscriptions for the relief of the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in the war. Mirza Agha Ali Khan also delivered a short speech in support of the proposal regarding the collection of subscriptions. After this a committee, with Mirza Agha Ali Khan as its president, was appointed to receive subscriptions on behalf of the soldiers.

Circulation, 150 copies. The Mitra Vilas of the 30th December, after briefly
Russis and the Kabul describing the occupation of Jallalabad by Sir Sam Browne on the 21st
December without opposition, and the friendly conduct of the

inhabitants towards the British troops, remarks: This news. will be a source of great grief to the Russians, who were already. jealous of the successful progress of our troops in Afghanistan. May the English Government succeed in its wishes in the present war, and Russia continue a prey to envy. The Mitra Vilas then quotes an extract from the Russian Exchange Gazette, in which the writer states that the public debt of Russia is so large that the yearly interest on her liabilities amounts to 180 millions rubles, i.e., one-third of her annual revenues, and warns the Russian Government against engaging in a struggle with any great power; and remarks that if such is the state of the Russian finances, it is impossible that Russia should venture to espouse the cause of the Amir, and to pick a quarrel with the English power. If she unfortunately does interfere in the Kabul war, the result will be simply disastrous to herself.

A correspondent of the Vakili Hindustan of the 28th December says: If the news that The Kabul war. has been lately received from the seat of war is true, the war may be considered to be at an end. If it is a fact that Sher Ali has fled from Kabul, leaving Yakub Khan in authority, there appears to be nothing to prevent the immediate advance of our troops to Kabul as far as any organised resistance on the part of the enemy is concerned. But we must always be on our guard against the tricks of the enemy. Moreover, it should be remembered that very severe snow falls in Afghanistan during the winter, and we once suffered very severely from that snow on a former occasion. Our troops should not, therefore, advance beyond Jallalabad until the arrival of the next spring. Perhaps the Amir did not think that his refusal to receive the British mission would lead to an immediate outbreak of hostilities with the Government of India. He thought the Government would remain silent at the rejection of its mission,

Circulation, 260 copies. just as it did after the failure of the Peshawar Conference. But he was mistaken. The state of things was now quite changed. When the Peshawar Conference took place, he had not fallen a dupe to Russian intrigue. Now that he has welcomed a Russian mission into his capital, the Government could no longer be indifferent to Afghan politics, and was naturally prompted to place its relations with Afghanistan on a satisfactory footing. Many European statesmen very strongly criticise the policy of Lord Lytton. A French paper says that Russia spread a net of her intrigues in the East, and that Lord Lytton rushed into it and was entangled. It is very easy to pick holes in any thing. But the critics of Lord Lytton's policy will be at their wit's end if they were asked what other policy could be adopted under the circumstances. Should we have refrained from interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan, so that Russia might have established her influence at Kabul, and ultimately carried out her hostile designs against India? Lord Lytton tried his best to maintain friendly relations with Sher Ali, and reminded him of the inevitable calamities that attend a war. But when he would listen to no friendly advice, His Lordship was reluctantly obliged to have recourse to arms.

Circulation, 1050 copies. The Akhbár-i-Am of the 1st January publishes an article The cost of the on the question of the payment of the cost war.

of the war, the substance of which is as follows: We are loyally and faithfully attached to the English Government and love British rule, because the English Government takes a deep interest in our welfare, and always endeavours to promote our interests. Our Government must be acquainted with the proverb that the people are, as it were, the root, and the king the tree. This being the case, what foolish man (literally, an enemy of wisdom or reason) was he who proposed in Parliament that India should pay the entire cost of the Kabul war? Was he not ashamed to make such a proposal? It is surprising that an innocent man should

suffer for the fault of another. The English statesmen themselves attribute the Kabul war to the unwise Eastern policy of the English Government, and exempt the Government of India from all blame in the matter. The London papers also declare that if the Primier had acted in the Eastern question with his eyes wide open, the Kabul difficulty would never have arisen. Even the Russian papers loudly declare that Russia instigated the Amir, because England prevented her from obtaining the full advantages of her conquests in Turkey. In these circumstances, is it not unjust to throw the entire cost of the war on India? There is also another thing to be considered in connection with this question. That thing is the difficulty of meeting the expenses of the war out of the ordinary revenues of India. The Indian Exchequer is clearly unable to defray the cost of the war without having recourse to increased taxation. But when the people already bitterly complain that they are overburdened with taxes, it is easy to imagine how they will receive the levy of a new impost. To compel the people to do any thing which they are unwilling to do, is oppression. It is, therefore, oppression to realise a tax from the people by force. And we have already proved above that it is unjust to saddle India with the cost of the war. No Empire can last long which practises both injustice and oppression upon the people. It is our object to impress this point on the mind of the Government, as we are the wellwishers of the Government. If we were ill-wishers, we would have remained silent. We are not like our English contemporaries who do not warn the Government in time, but remain silent at first, and afterwards denounce it when it has committed a mistake.

The Sola' Túr of the 31st December says that the Oudh

The cost of the war.

Akhbár of the 26th idem has ably discussed the question of the cost of the war

(vide the Selections for week ending the 28th December, 1878,

Circulation. 275 copies.

page 1059), but that the writer has not arrived at the right conclusion. The writer argues that as the Eastern policy of the English Government is the ultimate cause of the Kabul war, the cost of the war should devolve upon the Imperial Exchequer, but that, as it is India which will be benefited by the war, she should pay the lion's share of the cost. The first part of his argument is quite valid. When the Home Government guaranteed the protection of the Turkish Empire against further Russian aggression, Russia began to intrigue with Amir Sher Ali, and, therefore, England should pay for the war. But the second part of the writer's argument is not equally valid. It is true that India will be benefited by the war, but India is a dependency of England, and, therefore, the benefit of India is really the benefit of England. However, we admit that as India will be directly benefited by the war, she should pay a portion of the cost, provided she is able to But we regret to say that she can not afford to pay for the war. She is already a poor country, and the late famines have rendered her condition worse. In these circumstances, it behaves England to exempt the poor natives from the burden of increased taxation, and to defray the entire cost from the Imperial Exchequer. But if the English revenues are also not in a state to meet the expenditure incurred in the war, the cost may be realised from the English merchants and traders who reap an immense profit from the Indian trade. If, in spite of all this, it is decided that India herself should pay her share, there are only two ways in which this can be best done:-

First.—That the native chiefs and princes may be called upon to pay for the war. The establishment of British supremacy in India has proved a real boon to them. Formerly internecine quarrels were always prevalent in India. But the strong English rule has put an end to them, and thus the native chiefs have been saved the trouble and expense of constantly waging war against each other. Moreover,

they voluntarily offered to assist the paramount power with men and money in the present crisis. Had the war been prolonged, it would have entailed upon them a large expenditure. But fortunately the war has come to a speedy close. They would, therefore, willingly pay the Indian share of the cost, if they were asked to do so.

Secondly.—That the Government of India should borrow money in order to pay its share of the cost. It should neither appropriate the famine insurance fund, nor levy a new war tax, but defray the cost out of borrowed money, and the war debt may be paid by small annual instalments from the Indian revenues.

The Dabdaba-i-Sikandri, Rampur, of the 30th December,
The loyalty of the native chiefs.

ber of the feudatory chiefs and princes
of India, who have offered the services of their troops to the
Government of India, and even expressed their willingness to
accompany the Kabul expedition personally, remarks that it
is the earnest desire of every native chief to render aid to the
paramount power in the present crisis. It is the kind and
friendly policy pursued by the Government of India towards
the feudatory chiefs that has won the good will of the latter.

The Akhbár-i-Anjumani Panjab of the 27th December

Every important occasion elicits expressions of loyalty from

The death of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice Maud Mary, daughter of Her Majesty.

all sides of India.

publishes the proceedings of the general meeting of the Anjuman-i-Panjab which was held on the 23rd idem to express their sympathy with Her Ma-

jesty at the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice Mand Mary. Munchi Muhammad Latif, secretary to the Anjuman, delivered a long and touching speech on the occa-

Circulation, 430 copies.

Circulation,

thy on the part of the whole native population towards Her Majesty at this severe affliction which has befallen the Royal Family, and dilated on the benefits which the natives enjoy under British rule, namely, the security of life and property, the impartial administration of justice, religious liberty, &c. The following resolution was passed at the meeting;—that this society expresses its most heartfelt grief at the lamentable death of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice Maud Mary, Duchess of Saxony, and daughter of Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of India, and most respectfully expresses its cordial sympathy, at this general meeting, with Her Majesty for this severe affliction.

The death of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice has been noticed with regret by many vernacular newspapers).

NATIVE STATES.

Circulation, 125 copies, The Jaipur Akhbar of the 27th December, in its local news column, states that a grand dar-bar held by the bar was held by the Maharaja on the 25th December.

25th December in honor of the Chrismas day, and of the brilliant success of British arms in Afghanistan. Many extracts from Anglo-Indian papers, describing the victories gained by Her Majesty's army over the Afghans, were also read at the darbar by Babu Mahendra Nath Sen, Secretary to the Maharaja's Council.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 260 copies. The Factory Labor Bill.

that the cutton-mill owners of Manchester have long been agitating the question of the passing of an Act for the regulation of labor at the Bembay mills. They contend that the absence of such a law gives an advantage to the Bombay mill-owners, and is prejudicial to the Manchester trade. Their efforts have at last

250 acpies.

been crowned with success. A Bill for the Indian factories has been prepared and published. We are fully convinced that nothing can now prevent the Bill from becoming law. However, we would be ill discharging our duties to our country if we did not protest against it, because it will seriously affect the trade of our country. The necessity of a law should be proved before it is enacted. But no necessity has yet been proved for a factory law in India. Have any complaints reached the Government that the factory laborers are cruelly treated, and that more work is exacted from them than they are able to perform? We know nothing about the quantity of work exacted from the operatives at the cotton-mills. But, as regards the other factories, we are in a position to assert that it is not at all necessary to fix the number of hours for work for the laborers by law. There appears to be no reason why a law ought to be enacted for the regulation of factories in India, simply because such a law exists in England. The state of things in the two countries is quite different. The system of doing work in India is different from that in vogue in England. The cold climate of England being more favorable for hard labor, the English laborers work much more studiously and steadily than the native laborers. In fact, it takes a native laborer two hours to do the same quantity of work which an English laborer does in one hour. It should be also borne in mind that in India not only the factory operatives but all laborers and artizans nominally work from morning till evening. In the hot weather they get three hours, and in the cold weather, when the days are only eleven hours long, two hours for rest at noon. The above remarks are based on our experience of the shawl and carpet factories of the Panjab. It should be also borne in mind that the laborers at these factories do not get fixed daily wages, but they are paid according to the amount of work they do. Thus it is obvious that if the proposed Factory Bill becomes law, it will not only be injurious to the factory owners but

a source of distress and hardship to the laborers them-

Circulation, 250 copies.

The Berar Samáchár of the 29th December, adverting to the letter written by Sir Erskine The admission of natives Perry to the Nineteenth Century reinto the Covenanted Civil Service. garding the transmission of a despatch by the Secretary of State to the Government of India on the question of the admission of natives into the Covenanted Civil Service, expresses great satisfaction at this news, and remarks that it will be a very good thing if the despatch embodies a scheme to facilitate the admission of natives into the ranks of the Civil Service. An idea has hitherto prevailed in the public mind at Home that the native candidates for the Civil Service examination should go to England and receive their education with the English candidates. the limit of age fixed for the candidates is very small. are now many natives who, although they have received their education in India, are quite fit to hold appointments usually reserved for the members of the Covenanted Civil Service.

Circulation, 44 copies,

The Arya Mitra, Benares, of the 3rd January, says that when the inhabitants of the North-The disarming of the inhabitants of Mirzapur. Western Provinces were disarmed at the end of the mutiny, the inhabitants of the Mirzapur district, which is situated near hills and forests, were allowed to keep their arms on the ground that they required arms to protect their own lives, children, cattle and crops against wild beasts. But we regret to say that they have lately been asked by the district officers to make over their arms to Govern-They protested against the order on the ground that, if they were disarmed, they would suffer considerably from the constant inroads of wild beasts. On this the district officers passed orders that they might keep their swords, but that they must surrender their guns. To our thinking it would be better if they were allowed to keep their guns instead of swords, because no wild beast fears a sword, while, on the other hand, the mere sound of a gun is sufficient to frighten a wild beast. No danger to the peace of the country can be apprehended from the possession of arms by the people. The population of the Mitzapur district is very small compared with its area. Moreover, the arms which the inhabitants have in their possession are all old-fashioned and unserviceable. Their swords have been eaten by rust: Not one man in a thousand has a rifle or revolver. They have got only matchlocks. In our opinion the best plan will be to have a look at all their arms in order to see what kind of arms they have got, and then to allow each family to keep one or two arms according to its need, and to take the surplus arms from them.

The Nasimi Agra of the 30th December, in regard to the case of Mr. Hogan, Assistant Engineer, Agra, which was noticed at length in the Selections for the week ending the

5th September, 1878, page 784, remarks:

The case is still pending decision in the criminal court. It was at first compounded, but inquiries have been instituted a second time by the order of the local Government. The result of the final inquiries has not yet been made public. We hope, although we are afraid our hope will hardly be realised, that some indulgence will be shown to the poor assistant engineer. The plaintiff is a native. Even supposing that his house was plundered and burnt, and that he himself was tied to a tree and beaten, the assistant engineer, who is a respectable gentleman, has already been fined Rs. 30, a large amount, by the court in three other cases, and has also been subjected to great trouble and inconvenience in attending the court, may be rightly considered to have suffered considerably more than the plaintiff. We are actuated by feelings of pity and humanity in taking such a favorable view of the case, but pity must give way to justice. To show indulgence to a criminal only encourages crime.

Circulation, 150 copies. Circulation, 575 copies.

A correspondent of the Aftabi Punjab of the 30th December,
writing from Tarantaran, Amritsar,
munsif in Tarantaran, Amsays that the civil litigation in Tarantaran,
ritsar.
taran is very heavy. Munshi Altaf Ali,

munsif, who is now on leave, had to sit at court till 12 P. M. This hard work brought on illness, and he has been obliged to take three months' leave. Lala Niranjan Das, who has been appointed to officiate for Munshi Altaf Ali, is undoubtedly a very good man. But, as he is new to the work, he can not do it so quickly as he ought to do, and, therefore, he is getting behind his work. Munshi Altaf Ali will find it very difficult to clear the arrears on his return from leave. In fact civil litigation in Tarantaran is much heavier than in any other tahsil in Amritsar, especially as the jurisdiction of the munsif of Tarantaran extends also over Vairowal. Vairowal is a large town which has its own municipal committee. In our humble opinion there should be two munsifs in Tarantaran.

Circulation, 150 copies. The Nasimi Agra of the 30th December publishes a short dialogue which took place belicense tax.

tween a trader and a vakil regarding the assessment of the license tax. The dialogue is as follows:—

Trader.—We have been ruined by the license tax. The assessments have been made at five or six times of what they really ought to be.

Vakil.—Why don't you apply to the assessing officer for a reduction of the assessed fee.

Trader.—It is quite useless to do so. The applicant has to attend the court for some days to his great inconvenience, and to pay twenty or twenty-five rupees to the vakil, but all in vain.

Vakil.—Why then appeal to the collector.

Trader.—An appeal to the collector is equally useless.



You should produce your ledgers in court in support of your application, and appoint a good pleader.

Trader.—All this is useless. No one carefully examines
the account books. The court only looks at the
total in the last page, and rejects the application.
I myself know of a case in which, according to
the total given at the last page of the account
book, the man's stock-in-trade was estimated at
Rs. 70,000, but after deducting the value of the
landed property and old doubtful debts, his stockin-trade did not amount to more than rupees twelve
or thirteen thousand. But neither the assessing
officer nor the collector listened to him, nor did
they carefully examine his books. Now you can
say whether he was oppressed or not.

Vakil.—But you can also appeal to the commissioner.

Trader.—Well, Sir, the higher you go, the greater the darkness. A poor man appealed to the commissioner for a reduction of the assessed license fee, and appointed a Barrister-at-Law to appear at court for him. But neither the Barrister was called in court, nor were his account books examined, and the appellate court upheld the decision of the lower courts. In the first place, very heavy assessments are made by the Government officers, and, secondly, we are fleeced by the vakils. Now what can we do? Where should we migrate from British territories?

The editor remarks: We personally heard the above dialogue that took place between a trader and a vakil. It is

not the object of the Government that the tax should be heavily assessed. If the assessments are hastily made they are sure to be oppressive in many cases. The higher officers should exercise a strict check over the assessments made by the subordinate officers, otherwise the people will be exposed to great oppression.

EDUCATION.

Circulation, 250 copies. The Berar Samachar of the 29th December says that five

The last matriculation examination of the Bombay University and the high schools of Berar.

candidates appeared at the last matriculation examination of the Bombay University from the Akola high school (which is under a European

headmaster), but only one of them passed the examination, while the Amraoti high school sent np seven candidates, and four of them were successful. The good results of the Amraoti school are very creditable to the headmaster, Mr. Vishnu Moreshwar Mahájni. The Amraoti high school was also formerly once in the charge of a native headmaster, and then also it was considerably improved by him. Englishmen as a rule are better educated men than the natives, and, therefore, the pupils of the former should achieve better success at the University examinations than those of the latter. But as regards the Akola and the Amraoti high schools, the case appears to be quite the reverse of this. The director of public instruction in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts should carefully note this fact. If our low paid natives can teach their pupils much better than the highly paid Europeans, we do not see the use of employing the latter. We hope that the director will not attach too much importance to the fact that at least one European headmaster should be retained in the educational department of Berar. We do not mean that the European headmaster of the Akola high school should be dismissed. He may be appointed an assistant commissioner, and the school placed under a native headmaster. The Urdu Akhbár, published in Marathi at Akola, of the 28th December, in commenting upon the same subject. The same subject, remarks that the cause of the unsatisfactory results of the Akola high school this time is that Mr. Aitkin, the headmaster, did not carefully attend to the instruction of the entrance class this year. He wasted a great deal of his time in examining the lower classes in the school in March and June last, and in several other ways, as, for instance, in reporting his subordinates to the director for the slightest offences, &c. It took him two hours every day to go from his house to the school and back again

150 copies.

Circulation,

The Pramod Sindhu of the 30th December praises Sir

to his house. We hope that he will carefully teach the stu-

The opening of agricultural classes in the Puna engineering college and certain high schools in the Bombay Presidency.

dents of the entrance class next year.

Richard Temple for opening agricultural classes in the Puna engineering college and in six high schools in the Bombay Presidency, and hopes

that the natives will assist the Government in furthering this scheme, which has been adopted by His Excellency the Governor for the improvement of agriculture in the Bombay Presidency, so that the Government may be induced to establish similar classes in other provinces also.

Circulation, 155 copies.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANBOUS.

The Vakili Hindustan of the 28th December, referring

The restoration of to the case of Bhagat Singh, the
Bhagat Singh, the priest priest of the golden temple at Amoritan, to his office.

Titsar, who was suspended by the deputy commissioner of Amritan on account of his misbehaviour towards His Excellency the Viceroy at the time of His Excellency's visit to the temple (vide the Selections for the week ending the 21st December, 1878, page 1051, et seq), remarks: We are glad to state that Bhagat Singh has been reinstated into his office by the deputy commissioner, per-

Circulation, 260 copies. haps under instructions from the Panjab Government. But his mere restoration is not enough. To appease the feelings of the Sikh community, it should be also stated by the Government who is really responsible for the occurrence of the untoward incident, and whether the conduct of Bhagat Singh was censurable.

Circulation, 275 copies.

The Kavi Vachan Sudha of the 30th December, in an article communicated by its Amritsar correspondent, publishes an account of the late visit of His Excellency the

Viceroy to the golden temple at Amritsar, chiefly referring to the untoward incident connected with the entrance of some companions of His Excellency's into the temple with their shoes on, and the placing of chairs inside the temple, which was opposed to the established custom. The account given by the Kavi Vachan Sudha is nearly the same as appeared in the Vakili Hindustan of the 14th December (vide the Selections for the week ending the 21st December, 1878, page 1051). As regards the occurrence of the unhappy incident, the writer in the Kavi Vachan Sudha, like the Vikili Hindustan, exempts His Excellency the Viceroy from all blame in the matter, and considers the three Sikh Sardars, who accompanied His Excellency, to be responsible for it. It was, says the writer, one of these Sardars who permitted the companions of His Excellency to enter the temple with their shoes on, and it was also at their instance that chairs were placed inside the temple.

Circulation, 200 copies. The Safir-i-Hind of the 27th December, on the authority

The executive engineer and the assistant engineer in charge of the Ganges Canal, Eastern Division, at Bhogaon, in Mainpuri.

of a correspondent, complains that the native assistant engineer attached to the executive engineer's office at Bhogaon, in the Mainpuri district, Ganges

Canal, Eastern Division, unnecessarily harasses the contractors. He has not yet paid the contractors for the work done

by them for the canal department six months ago. Nor does the executive engineer listen to their complaints. We hope that the Chief Engineer for the North-Western Provinces will take their case into his favorable consideration and do them justice.

The occurrence of two cases of robbery in Ajmere.

The occurrence of two cases of robbery in Ajmere.

Week a gang of dakaits committed a highway robbery on the Neemuch road, between Sathana and Bandanwara, near the bridge, which is situated on the borders of Mewar. The dakaits plundered a carriage which was loaded with cloth, placed the cloth on their camels, and took their way ho me by the road. When they

a carriage which was loaded with cloth, placed the cloth on their camels, and took their way ho me by the road. When they had gone nearly one mile from that spot, they met four or five mahajans, whom they also robbed of property worth Rs. 600. After four days after the occurrence of this robbery, the mails were plundered near the same bridge, and the postal. harkara, who carried the mails, was wounded. The police are busily engaged in tracing the robbers, but all their efforts have hitherto been unsuccessful.

Circulation, 820 copies.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

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